

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 FBIE-00

SY-04 CPR-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ASWIFT:KAD

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:DCCUTHELL

CU/FS:JHEROLD (SUBSTANCE)

AID/SER/IT/TS/PR:AKENNEDY (SUBS)

AID/EA:DCHANDLER (SUBSTANCE)

S/CCT:AMB. HOFFACKER (SUBSTANCE)

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R 202339Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE EMBASSY INCIDENT

REF: STATE 254606

1. DEPT. HAS DRAWN TOGETHER FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON NAPOLEON LECHOCO AND FAMILY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ADD.

2. NAPOLEON LECHOCO - BORN JULY 7, 1930; MARRIED TO LETICIA EBBA; SEVEN CHILDREN. FILED 3RD PREFERENCE IMMIGRANT PETITION WITH U.S. EMBASSY, MANILA APRIL 21, 1969. DEPARTED PHILIPPINES JANUARY 1972 FOR EUROPE, ENTERED U.S. WITH WIFE ON B-2 VISA FEBRUARY 6, 1972; ADJUSTED STATUS TO PERMANENT RESIDENT JANUARY 2, 1974.

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3. WIFE ATTORNEY LETICIA EBBA LECHOCO WAS AN INFORMATION

OFFICER IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION WHO WAS SENT TO U.S. ON THREE MONTH AID GRANT JUNE 9 - SEPT. 9, 1971. MRS. LECHOCO RETURNED TO HER JOB IN SEPTEMBER 1971 BUT LEFT PHILIPPINES TO ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND TO U.S. IN 1972.

4. IN DECEMBER 1972, MRS. LECHOCO APPLIED TO STATE DEPT. FOR WAIVER OF HER FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT ON GROUNDS THAT SHE WOULD SUFFER POLITICAL PERSECUTION IF SHE

RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES. DEPARTMENT REJECTED THIS REQUEST MARCH 16, 1973 BUT INDICATED INFORMALLY TO MRS. LECHOCO THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR WAIVER ON NON-POLITICAL GROUNDS. (SEE MANILA 4412, APRIL 18, 1973 AND PREVIOUS.) MRS. LECHOCO HAS APPARENTLY REFILED WAIVER REQUEST ON HARSHIP GROUNDS WITH INS BALTIMORE WHICH HAS NOT YET REFERRED CASE TO DEPT.

5. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON NAPOLEON LECHOCO IS CONTAINED IN WIFE'S REQUEST FOR WAIVER (DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED): LECHOCO WAS STUDENT LEADER IN PHILIPPINES 1950-1960 (THIS INFO CONFIRMED BY OUR FILES); 1960-1972 POLITICAL STRATEGIST IN CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; IN 1966 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF TARIFF COMMISSION OF PHILIPPINES (JOB APPARENTLY LOST WHEN MARCOS TOOK OFFICE) AND LAW INSTRUCTOR AT UNIVERSITY OF EAST AND PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. IN EARLY 1969, HELPED FOUNDED "ANTI-GRAFT LEAGUE OF PHILIPPINES, INC" (AGLP) WITH ATTORNEY CRISPIN T. REYES (PRESIDENT) FOR "NADER LIKE CRUSADE." CLAIMS AGLP WAS SUPPORTED BY SENATOR AQUINO. AGLP WAS VERY ACTIVE 1969-71 FILING MANY LAW SUITS AGAINST MARCOS AND PROMINENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INCLUDING EDUARDO ROMUALDEZ AND ENRILE. (LECHOCO CITES "MANILA TIMES" ARTICLES TO DOCUMENT AGLP ACTIVITIES). LECHOCO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THREATENED BY "MARCOS THUGS" FEBRUARY 1969 (TIMES ARTICLE FEB 8, 1969) AND TO HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT DANGER UP TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM PHILIPPINES. WIFE LETICIA CLAIMS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED IN HER JOB BECAUSE OF ANTI-MRS MARCOS STANDS. LECHOCO ALSO CLAIMS THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1972 HIS ASSOCIATE CRISPIN REYES WAS

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JAILED AND THAT LECHOCO'S ASSETS IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE SEIZED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

6. LECHOCO APPEARS TO BE ASSOCIATED IN U.S. THROUGH HIS "PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE" WITH SEVERAL FORMER MANILA CHRONICLE NEWSPAPER MEN: PEDRONIMO RAMOS; ALEX A. ESCLAMADO; BENJAMIN E. COSCA. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS NOT AS FAR AS WE KNOW BEEN ACTIVELY ANTI-

MARCOS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: A. ANY ADDITIONS OR COMMENTS ON
ABOVE INFORMATION; B. ANY INFORMATION ON ACTUAL REASONS
FOR DELAY IN SON'S DEPARTURE.

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